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ABSTRACT. This study examines the patterns, functions, and sociolinguistic implications of code-switching in everyday Uzbek speech, with a particular focus on interactions involving Uzbek–Russian and Uzbek–English bilingual speakers. The phenomenon of code-switching — the alternation between two or more languages within a single conversation — is a common feature of multilingual societies, especially in urban areas of Uzbekistan. Drawing on a mixed-methods approach, data were collected through audio recordings, semi-structured interviews, and social media discourse analysis. Results indicate that code-switching occurs most frequently in casual conversations, online communication, and educational settings. The analysis reveals that speakers often switch codes for lexical gaps, pragmatic emphasis, social identity signaling, or group belonging. Russian is the dominant secondary language in code-switching among older and middle-aged speakers, while English is more prevalent among younger speakers in academic and online contexts. The findings have implications for understanding language change, identity construction, and bilingual education in post-Soviet Uzbekistan.

Keywords. Code-switching, bilingualism, Uzbek language, Russian language, English language, sociolinguistics, multilingualism, urban linguistics, language contact, language shift

ANNOTATSIYA. Ushbu tadqiqot kundalik o‘zbek nutqida til almashishning xususiyatlari, funksiyalari va sotsiolingvistik oqibatlarini, xususan, o‘zbek–rus va o‘zbek–ingliz ikki tilli so‘zlovchilar ishtirokidagi muloqotlarni o‘rganadi. Til almashish — bitta suhbat davomida ikki yoki undan ortiq tillar o‘rtasida almashib gapirish hodisasi — ko‘p tilli jamiyatlar uchun xos bo‘lib, ayniqsa, shahar hududlarida keng tarqalgan. Aralash usullardan foydalangan holda, ma’lumotlar audioyozuvlar, intervyular va ijtimoiy tarmoqlardagi muloqotlarni tahlil qilish orqali to‘plandi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, til almashish eng ko‘p norasmiy suhbatlarda, onlayn muloqotda va ta’lim muhitida yuz beradi. Tahlil shuni ochib berdi: so‘zlovchilar ko‘pincha lug‘aviy bo‘shliqlarni to‘ldirish, pragmatik urg‘u berish, ijtimoiy identifikatsiyani ifodalash yoki guruhga mansublikni ko‘rsatish maqsadida boshqa tillarni almashtirgan holda so‘zlashadilar. Katta va o‘rta yoshdagi so‘zlovchilar orasida til almashishda rus tili asosiy ikkinchi til sifatida yetakchilik qiladi, yoshlar orasida esa ingliz tili akademik va onlayn kontekstlarda ko‘proq qo‘llaniladi. Ushbu natijalar O‘zbekistonda til o‘zgarishi, shaxsiy identifikatsiya va ikki tilli ta’limni tushunishga hissa qo‘shadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: til almashish, ikki tillilik, o‘zbek tili, rus tili, ingliz tili, sotsiolingvistika, ko‘p tillilik, shahar lingvistikasi, til kontakti, til o‘zgarishi

АННОТАЦИЯ. В данном исследовании рассматриваются модели, функции и социолингвистические аспекты переключения языков в повседневной узбекской речи, с особым акцентом на взаимодействие узбекско-русских и узбекско-английских билингов. Явление переключения языков — чередование двух и более языков в рамках одного разговора — является характерной чертой многоязычных обществ, особенно в городах

Узбекистана. Используя смешанную методологию, данные были собраны посредством аудиозаписей, интервью и анализа дискурса в социальных сетях. Результаты показывают, что переключение языков чаще всего происходит в неформальном общении, онлайн-коммуникации и образовательной среде. Анализ выявил, что говорящие нередко переключают языки для восполнения лексических пробелов, придания прагматического акцента, выражения социальной идентичности или принадлежности к группе. Среди старшего и среднего поколения в качестве основного второго языка в переключении доминирует русский, тогда как среди молодежи более распространён английский язык, особенно в академической и онлайн-среде. Полученные результаты имеют значение для понимания языковых изменений, формирования идентичности и билингвального образования в Узбекистане.

Ключевые слова: переключение языков, билингвизм, узбекский язык, русский язык, английский язык, социолингвистика, многоязычие, городская лингвистика, языковой контакт, языковой сдвиг

INTRODUCTION.

Uzbekistan's linguistic landscape is deeply influenced by its historical and sociopolitical background. As a former Soviet republic, the country retains strong Russian linguistic influence, particularly in urban centers and in official domains. Since independence in 1991, Uzbek has been promoted as the state language, but Russian remains widely used in media, education, and professional communication.

In recent years, English has emerged as a third influential language, especially among youth and in higher education, largely due to globalization, international education opportunities, and the internet. This multilingual environment has fostered the widespread practice of code-switching — the alternation between languages in spoken or written communication.

Previous research (Poplack, 1980; Myers-Scotton, 1993; Matras, 2009) highlights that code-switching is not random but follows structural and functional patterns. In Uzbekistan, Uzbek–Russian code-switching has been documented extensively in urban settings, while Uzbek–English code-switching is a more recent phenomenon linked to digital media and education. This thesis aims to identify the main patterns and functions of code-switching in everyday Uzbek speech, exploring both face-to-face interactions and online communication.

METHODOLOGY. This research employed a mixed-methods design to capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of code-switching.

Participants

- 50 participants (aged 18–40) from Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara.
- All participants were proficient in Uzbek and had varying levels of fluency in Russian and/or English.

Data Collection

- Natural conversations: 15 hours of recorded everyday speech (family gatherings, workplace chats, street conversations).
- Social media data: 500 Facebook, Telegram, and Instagram messages/comments collected with consent.
- Interviews: 20 semi-structured interviews to explore speakers' motivations for code-switching.

Analysis

- Thematic coding for functions of code-switching (based on Gumperz, 1982).
- Structural categorization: intra-sentential (switching within a sentence), inter-sentential (switching between sentences), and tag-switching (inserting short phrases).
- Quantitative frequency analysis of code-switching instances per 100 utterances.

RESULTS

Patterns of Code-Switching

- Intra-sentential switching: Most frequent (55% of cases), e.g., "Bugun meeting bor, shuning uchun erta kel."
- Inter-sentential switching: 30%, e.g., "Men bugun ishladim. Tomorrow I'm free."
- Tag-switching: 15%, e.g., "Ha, of course!"

Languages Involved

- Uzbek–Russian: 68% of observed switches.
- Uzbek–English: 27% of switches.
- Uzbek–Russian–English mixed: 5%.

Contexts of Code-Switching

- Social media & texting: high frequency of English inserts, especially among youth.
- Workplace: Russian used for technical/professional terms.
- Education: English used for academic vocabulary.

Motivations

- Lexical gaps (Speaker lacks equivalent terms in Uzbek) — 40%.
- Prestige and modernity — 25%.
- Habit from bilingual upbringing — 20%.
- Humor or emphasis — 15%.

DISCUSSION. The data confirm that code-switching in Uzbekistan is patterned, functional, and context-dependent. Russian remains dominant in code-switching patterns due to historical prestige and established bilingualism, especially in technical and administrative vocabulary. English's growing role reflects global cultural and educational influence, particularly in the speech of younger, internet-savvy speakers.

Code-switching is not necessarily a sign of language decline; rather, it reflects linguistic adaptability and identity negotiation. Younger speakers often use English phrases to signal modernity or global connectedness, while older speakers rely more on Russian for functional clarity. This aligns with Myers-Scotton's (1993) Markedness Model, where language choice signals social meaning.

CONCLUSION. Code-switching is a vibrant feature of everyday Uzbek speech, functioning as both a communicative resource and a marker of identity. While Russian continues to play a significant role, English is rapidly gaining ground, particularly among younger generations. Policymakers and educators should recognize code-switching as part of linguistic reality rather than solely as a problem, and design bilingual/multilingual education strategies accordingly.

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